

# THE MAUI NEWS

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## CAPTAIN WILLIAM MATSON

In the death of Captain William Matson, people of Maui and of the Territory feel that they have lost a prominent citizen. So closely had he, for many years, been identified with our shipping and general business interests that he has seemed like one of us, and to all intents and purposes has been one of us, despite his residence on the Coast.

Captain Matson began life as a common sailor and worked up until he became the official of one of the most important transportation companies operating in this ocean. His career will stand as a monument to thrift and strict attention to duty, his place in the shipping business of the Pacific will be hard to fill.

## DO WE LOVE OUR COUNTRY?

During this war Great Britain has already created two large loans of \$5,000,000,000 each, and for the last one, subscriptions were received from about 8,000,000 different buyers.

The French people are known as the greatest government bond buyers in the world.

Fifty years ago we raised over \$3,000,000,000 to provide for the expenses of the Civil War. The wealth of this country today is eight times as great as it was then; our banking resources are twenty times as great as then or even as late as 1870.

Soon after the beginning of the Spanish-American War our Government offered for sale \$200,000,000 of 3% bonds, which were oversubscribed 7½ times. This was equivalent to subscriptions totaling about \$1,400,000,000.

Can it be that we love and appreciate our country to a less degree than England or France? Is it conceivable that we have lost our enthusiasm for our Government's ideals since 1864, or even since 1898?

It is estimated by the Controller of Currency that there are now more than 10,000 individuals and corporations in the United States in a position to subscribe from \$100 to \$100,000,000 to the Liberty Loan. There are easily a hundred times that many who are able to buy a \$50 bond on easy terms.

You are one of these individuals. Subscribe today for the Liberty Loan at your bank or with your employer.

## PROBLEMS OF THE SMALL FARMER

In last week's issue Mr. J. F. O'Brien gave us some interesting and instructive data on the subject of small farming in general and diversified farming in particular, and we feel sure that his opinions and advice have been much appreciated. The writer of the published article told us, however, only of the things we should grow, not enlightening us to any extent on the equally important questions of where and how we are to find profitable markets for the same. Corn and oats cannot be grown to advantage, while it is difficult and expensive to reach markets with fresh legumes, fruits and vegetables.

Standing in the way of the successful and satisfactory marketing of fresh fruits, vegetables, legumes and corn (for table purposes) in the Islands is the general practice of using canned goods. It is doubtful that ten per cent of the vegetables sold in this Territory are fresh, the remaining ninety per cent arriving here in tins from California, and even as far back as the Atlantic coast. Of course everybody stands ready to admit that fresh fruits and vegetables are better, but the ease with which the canned article is obtained and served has always "turned the trick," so that the practice of using imported goods has become universal.

Take, for example, a certain small tin of tomato sauce, sold in every city, town, hamlet and grocery store in the Islands. It comes from California. Everybody knows it, without our naming the brand. We are informed by reliable parties that 100,000 cases (not dozens, but cases) of this sauce (one big crushed tomato, a little pepper, and water, to the tin) are shipped into this Territory every year. In addition, enormous quantities of tomatoes, prepared, if you will, in other ways, are imported. Then there are beans, peas, corn, asparagus, etc., etc., to the end of the chapter, in tins, imported by the thousands of cases. Inquire at the grocery department of any store and you will find large quantities of all these things, but no fresh vegetables nor fresh fruits, except oranges, apples and such standards as keep a long time. It is probably a safe venture that any large grocery store in Honolulu sells more canned vegetables in a month than all the market places combined—and possibly with the Chinese truck peddlers thrown in for good measure.

It is a peculiar situation, perhaps, but the condition is none the less real, and it must be dealt with accordingly. How are we to deal with it? By giving the people what they want. How are we to determine what they want? By noting what they purchase and use. In this case, as we have pointed out, they purchase and use canned goods. It may be merely a matter of convenience and all that, but they do it just the same and, as a business proposition, that is all the grower should care to know.

The solution of the problem is to meet canned goods with canned goods. A pineapple cannery is able, at very small expense, to take care of a large volume of this business—the situation on Maui being such that an arrangement of this sort would likely be easy and could be made to work out satisfactorily to everyone. The market is here and all around. It is always here, and is certain. All required is a working arrangement between the growers, the packer and the dealer. The consumer will do the rest. Maui has the best opportunity of any of the islands in this business. Oahu will stay with pines for a long time, while Kauai small-farmers are tied up to pines and cane. Owing to recognized conditions, Hawaii would not be a competitor in many years, if at all.

The idea would not be to abandon anything now grown and marketed at a profit. Keep all those things going, and going strong. But in addition to that, go energetically after the Hawaiian market for

canned fruits, legumes, vegetables, etc., out of which Coast growers and canners have been, and are, making fortunes. We believe that if the small farmers, so called, of the island take this matter up in an earnest, business-like manner they will find that the canners and merchants are willing to meet them more than half way.

Mr. O'Brien, in his paper, invited suggestions that might lead to a solution of the problems of the small farmer on Maui, and we understand that the invitation has the endorsement of the Haiku Farmers' Association. We are submitting the above as our first suggestion on this important topic.

## TWO OF MAUI'S NEEDS

Although Maui feels a just pride in being up-to-date on most things, there are at least two real needs here that are now indifferently and unsatisfactorily supplied. The first of these is a first-class drug-store, in charge of a registered pharmacist. The second is an up-to-date plumbing establishment, with plumbers informed on all the finer, modern points of the business.

We have gotten along for so many years without a real drug-store, run by a pharmacist, that the matter may not appeal to us, at first thought, as of vital importance. But it is; and as our population increases and our towns expand the need becomes more and more pressing. A first-class drug store, in Wailuku, for instance, with a modern soda fountain, etc., would be a good thing for the whole island and a gold-mine for its owner. It would indicate a progressive spirit were our business men to invite a registered pharmacist to come in here and set up an up-to-date establishment.

We have plumbers on Maui, but it seems to be necessary, every-time a large house is planned, to look elsewhere for plumbers and plumbing material. There have been notable instances of this in the past year or two. Moreover, property owners have found it necessary to call in assistance from outside on small contracts requiring skilled workmanship. This is not as it should be. There is work enough here to command the undivided attention of the best plumbing establishing in the Territory, and we should have the convenience.

Both of these matters are important enough to engage the attention of the proper committees of the Chamber of Commerce.

## OUR NEW POSTOFFICE

Wailuku is to have a new postoffice, and it is largely up to the people of the community whether or not the building is such as to harmonize with the progressive appearance and spirit of our little city. The United States erects only first-class postoffice buildings. All others are supplied by citizens, the government paying rent for them. Our postoffice is third-class, although it is very close to becoming second class, which will call for improved facilities and a better building.

The postoffice building is generally the most conspicuous and the most frequented of any public structure in a town. It is oftentimes the basis of the general opinion a visitor forms of a place—whether it is up-to-date or not. Wailuku's present postoffice building is not a good advertisement, and as such we shall all be pleased to see it go.

There should be an immediate awakening of public spirit on this proposition, and enthusiasm for as large, as conveniently arranged and as beautiful a building as Uncle Sam will stand the rent on. Let us hold up the hands of those who seek the contract for the building, to the end that we may get the swiftest and best postoffice structure to be had in a town of this size.

There has been something crooked in Chile and Venezuela ever since the beginning of strained relations between the United States and Germany. The alignment of all other countries of South America against Prussianism will, however, force those two states to either fish, cut bait or go overboard. It will likely be found out very soon that the pirate down Samoa way was fitted out in Chile, while the enemy wireless plant on Curacao was probably established with the full knowledge of the Venezuelan government.

The news reached Honolulu yesterday that a special dispensation had been made allowing the shipment of bananas from the Islands to the Coast in foreign ships. This would be quite important were it not for the fact that after information of the concession was mailed from Washington, Congress suspended the coastwise shipping laws. It is still interesting, however, in that it is evidence of the friendliness of the Federal bureau of commerce.

Although the Wailuku police are efficient and alert, it might be a good idea to station a traffic man at the postoffice when the mails are being distributed. At such times the locality is usually congested with pedestrians and autos, and there is danger to life and limb. A conspicuous showing of police authority around there would have the effect of checking careless driving, at least.

The French report that the German trenches in Flanders have been blown to pieces is gratifying, but we have our misgivings as to what may be a few miles back of the shattered lines. At the same time it is plain that the situation of the foe in that quarter is becoming little short of desperate, and something will have to "give" before long.

We will wager someone else's Mexican dollar that several of the banquets and "blow-outs" given the visiting Congressmen next month will make that much-talked about Civic Convention dinner at the Moana look like the luau Lazarus found on the doorsteps of the Rich Man.

A rule of the owners forbidding the landing, or possession, of liquors on the island of Lanai would, perhaps, serve to prevent lawlessness there and render a jail unnecessary. Such a rule is in force on Niihau and works satisfactorily.

Maui will extend a "glad hand" to the Hilo ball-players tomorrow. It is hoped that they have a good time, and return home with only the most pleasing impressions of the island and of our people.

It is fitting that after laying the foundation for the successful termination of the greatest war in history our Congressmen should come to these Isles of Peace for recreation.

The Christmas exhibition of pictures, in Wailuku, is well worth the time of art connoisseurs. We understand that the display will be withdrawn after tomorrow.

If Honolulu don't quit this practice of bombarding our flagship Claudine, we'll be tempted to sever diplomatic relations.

Oh, what a scamper there was last night back to the band-wagon of the New York Giants!

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